



Media Contact:  
Carrie Hoover, (614) 834-9727  
[choover@canalwinchesterohio.gov](mailto:choover@canalwinchesterohio.gov)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Village to Participate in Arbor Day Celebration at Indian Trail Elementary**

CANAL WINCHESTER –The village will partner with the school district again this year to plant a tree in honor of Arbor Day. This year's celebration will be at Indian Trail Elementary at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 30. The village and its Street Tree Advisory Board (STAB) will help students in kindergarten, first and second grades plant a native Hackberry Tree on the school grounds.

“When we plant trees, we look 80 to 100 years in the future, and Hackberry Trees are native trees that are very tolerant of heat and droughts in case of coming climate change,” said Dick Miller, Urban Forester for the Village of Canal Winchester. He explained that this is why they chose the Hackberry for the celebration, and went on to say that Hackberry Trees are being used for planting needs around the village.

“Trees are our village's first defense against storm water because they catch, filter, and prevent rain water from getting into the drains,” Miller explained about the importance of trees to the village. The entire holiday of Arbor Day was created to celebrate the importance of trees for everyone. It was founded by J. Sterling Morton in 1872, a journalist and Secretary for the Nebraska Territory, who was a big advocate for environmental stewardship.

In addition to planting a tree at Winchester Trail Elementary, STAB members have designed bookmarks for all the students at the school. The bookmarks include information about Arbor Day and will be a nice keepsake to help remind the children about the importance of trees.

STAB is a five member panel made of Canal Winchester residents who work to preserve, protect and enhance trees and plants through the village. The village has partnered with Canal Winchester schools through STAB since the early 1990s for Arbor Day.

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